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SOVIET ARMY TRAINING AND MANEUVERS

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Soviet Standard Brief No 6

SOVIET ARMY TRAINING AND MANEUVERS

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Introduction

A. CHRONOLOGICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE TRAINING YEAR

Within the 25th Tk Div, training was divided between the winter training period and the summer training period. The description of this training in this section is roughly chronological.

1. The Winter Training Period

Officially, the winter training period started on or about 1 Dec each year and ended in the latter part of April of the following year. For the most part, winter training was of a classroom nature and conducted either in or near the winter quarters [redacted] in PRENZLAU (5319N-1312E).

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During the 1952-53 and 1953-54 winter seasons, tactical training in the form of "winter camps" (Zimniye Lager'ya) was innovated in the division. A winter camp consisted of one 14 to 15 day tactical exercise, to be held once during each winter period. All of the regiment's line units and about 50 percent of its rear service personnel participated. The location of the "winter camps" was somewhere in the vicinity of the TEMPLIN (5307N-1330E) training area.

2. Semi-Annual Inspection and Move to Summer Camp

The winter training period was terminated by an inspection conducted by an inspection team from Moscow, GSFG or 4th Gds Mecz Army Hq. In each of these three cases, this inspection lasted about seven days and was held in the winter quarter area of the regiment in PRENZLAU. The team inspected all military training and activities. The final phase which it inspected was tactical training, and the inspection took the form of observing a combined move to summer camp and tactical exercise.

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The size, mission and form of this tactical exercise was dictated by higher headquarters and were different each spring. The exercise usually lasted three to five days, and all the line units of Source's regiment took part.

although some rear service elements accompanied the line units on these tactical exercises, most of them remained in camp to load the equipment left behind and then moved directly to the TEMPLIN training area by train or by separate vehicle movement. The rear service elements followed by one or two days the line units, which had already moved out to the field as mentioned above.

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All the other line elements of the other subordinate units of the 25th Tk Div billeted in the PRENZLAU area followed the same procedure.

When the rear service elements arrived in the 25th Tk Div summer training camp, the line units were either already there or would arrive in a day or so. All the units then began preparing for the May Day holiday celebrations and also putting the camp in order for the summer training period which commenced shortly after the May Day holiday celebrations. This preparation took about 10 days.

3. Summer Training Period

Summer training was held in the summer camp of the 25th Tk Div. It always began after the 1 May holiday celebrations, the entire division being given 2 May off as a holiday and then commencing training on 3 May.

4. Semi-Annual Inspection and Return to Home Station

The entire division remained in the summer training area until the latter part of October each year, when summer training was terminated by a seven-day inspection by either a commission from MOSCOW, GSFG, or 4th Mecz Army

Hq. This inspection, like that in the spring, consisted of a review of the unit's achievements in tactical training; for this purpose, all units of the division embarked on a tactical exercise which normally lasted from four to seven days. After the exercise, the participating units went directly to their PRENZLAU winter quarters instead of returning to the summer training area. Source always remained with the rear service elements in summer camp when the line units were out on this exercise. The rear service elements then returned to winter quarters in a separate echelon from that of the tactical units which had already departed on the exercise.

Source did not actually participate in any of the tactical exercises either in the spring or at the close of summer training period, but remained behind with the rear service elements. Therefore, he could give no information on the size, scope or nature of the tactical exercises.

He only knew that the exercises were conducted somewhere in the TEMPLIN training area and that his regiment was rated 4 (good) in tactical training in the summer of 1953, although it was rated for all around training as "satisfactory".

5. The Fall Housekeeping Period

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Both the line units and the rear service elements of the Regt were back in their permanent stations in PRENZLAU either late in October or during the first part of November each year. The period between this return and the beginning of the new training year around 1 Dec --about one month-- was used mostly for housekeeping purposes. Winter quarters were put in order; all weapons, vehicles and other equipment were cleaned and cared for; and preparations were made for the coming winter training period. Also, the 7 Nov holiday was observed with a large parade. Other than four hours of required political instruction there was very little training, with the exception of some improvised classes called and organized by individual CO's of subordinate units at their own initiative.

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This period was also used to process out the remaining third-year men not yet demobilized. In connection with this, EM were redistributed within the regiment so as to maintain a balanced proportion of first, second, and third year men within the subordinate regimental units.

B. UNIT TRAINING ORGANIZATION AND SUBJECTS

1. General Training

The first 1 1/2 months of the winter training period were used for general military training (Obshchevoyskavaya podgotovka). All regimental personnel participated in military training of a basic nature with the unit to which they were assigned. Common subjects given during this period included close-order drill, physical training, interior guard duty, political training, first aid, chemical warfare, individual small arms training, and the reading and explanation of unclassified military manuals.

Following this general military training period, the regiment moved into its special training program (Spets-Zanyatiye). This consisted of the training of individual specialists such as radio operators, telephone operators, and fire direction personnel. During the 1952-53 and 1953-54 winter seasons the regiment could not start this special training on schedule since the "winter season tactical training" had begun at about this time (see section A, 1). Concerning details of the winter combined arms tactical training, see section B, 7.

Training was given more or less at the battery level in the subordinate line units of the regiment after winter tactical training and up to the beginning of the summer training period. This was in spite of the fact that the regiment had participated in the winter tactical training as a unit. 50X1

At the beginning of the summer training period in May each year, training was started at a battery level, but it quickly progressed to battalion and regimental-level types. There was a mixture of battery, battalion, and regimental types of mortar firing at the artillery firing range located northwest of the summer camp area. 2. 50X1

Starting in August, the demobilization of third-year men began. This covered men who had served their three years and were from the most distant points of the USSR. Because a number of men were to be demobilized from then until late November, there was an ever-increasing amount of malingering. Since the units still had to stand their fall semi-annual inspection and participate in the tactical exercise held at the end of the summer training period, it was usually necessary for the regimental political officers to hold formations of third-year men and encourage them to help pass the unit inspections.

a. Variations in Unit Efficiency

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the operational efficiency of the regiment increased during the early spring and reached its peak during the period from late May to late August. After August the growing

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number of demobilizations of personnel referred to previously were an increasing drag on performance. According to Source, the late summer "natural" peak of efficiency thus had to be artificially prolonged by pressure and exhortation in order to maintain performance during the fall inspections and tactical exercise.

Source did not know how much training a unit received before it was considered ready for combat, nor did he know what factors were utilized to determine combat readiness of units. In his opinion, it was the responsibility of the commissions conducting the semi-annual inspections to determine this.

2. Individual Weapons Training

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Source knew that all officers [] fired the TT pistol on an average of four times a year.

Concerning the PPSH SMG, EM armed with it fired twice during the winter training period. Each time, nine rounds were fired at a distance of 100 m. During the summer training period, they fired this weapon two or three times, except for those less proficient who fired from five to six times. In either case, firing was slow-fire (three rounds) at 100 m each time for second and third-year men. Men in their first year of service fired from a distance of 50 m.

EM who were armed with the M 1944 Mossin-Nagant Carbine fired two or three times during the winter training period. The distance was 100 m and each time three rounds were fired. During the summer training period, they fired two or three times. Each time they were given three rounds to fire at a distance of 100 m. Those less proficient were required to fire more often.

All military personnel were required to fire a similar course for record when the inspections were held at the conclusion of the summer training period. This firing was known as "inspection firing" (Inspektorskaya Strel'ba). There was no familiarization firing in the regiment other than that of weapons issued to individuals.

Enlisted women of the regiment were not required to do any range firing.

3. Daily Training Schedule

The following training schedule was observed during the winter training period. The summer camp training schedule was the same except that reveille was an hour earlier.

Reveille	0600
Physical Training	0600-0625
Morning Inspection	0630-0645
Breakfast	0700-0730
Training	0800-1400
Dinner	1400-1500
Compulsory rest	1500-1630
Training	1630-1830
Self-study	1830-2030
Supper	2030-2100

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Political mass training	2100-2230
Rollcall and evening walk	2230-2300
Taps	2300

Sometimes two hours of training were conducted before breakfast; and in this case breakfast would be held at 0900 hours. This practice might continue for several days in a row. In either this or the ordinary case, eight hours of scheduled training was given daily with the exception of Saturdays and Sundays. On Saturdays supper and taps were one hour later. Saturday was known as "Motor Pool Day" (Parkovoy Den'). Training was from two to four hours, followed by four to six hours of care and cleaning of all the vehicles, weapons and equipment of the regiment.

On Sundays, the only scheduled training given consisted of either cross-country runs or some other form of organized athletics plus political training. The cross-country runs, which were held occasionally, were compulsory for all personnel (including the higher-ranking regimental officers) except for older officers. They varied in length from one to three kilometers, but no field equipment or weapons were carried. In addition, many of the EM were placed on Sunday work details. Source had no further information on these forms of Sunday athletics.

Regimental guard duties required one day a week, during which there was no training for the company supplying guard and work details. The regimental interior guard required about 15 men each day. The garrison guard for the area also required about 15 men. Garrison guard was performed less frequently than regimental interior guard since all Division units in PRENZLAU pulled garrison guard on a roster basis. As a result of both guard duties and work details, Source estimated, the loss of training time, averaged over the year and over the entire regiment, was from one to 1½ days per man per week.

4. Personnel Responsible for Training

a. Line Unit Training

In the mortar batteries, practically all training was conducted by the battery officers with the help of EM mortar section commanders. One exception was chemical training, which was the responsibility of the Regimental Chief of Chemical Services. Both he and the battery officers personally instructed on chemical subjects.

Whenever there were firing problems involving a battalion, the battalion CO personally conducted the firing, directing the Battalion's massed fire. Also, the regimental CO personally conducted any regimental firing problems. Source had occasionally witnessed both officers performing these duties. He had no further information on tactical disposition of units, fire-direction techniques, etc.

Each battalion had a medical NCO who, together with the Feldshers of the Regimental Medical Section, organized and instructed first-aid and field sanitation classes. A very small number of hours was given to this subject.

b. Training of Specialists

Radio operators, telephone operators, and mortar fire-direction personnel of the batteries, the battalions, and the regiment held training in their own small groups at their respective levels. In addition to this, there were occasional regimental classes organized for all the regimental radio operators in one group, all the telephone operators in another group and so on. The Regimental Chief of Communications organized and was

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responsible for the training of the radio and telephone operators, while the staffs of the battalions and the regimental staff conducted the training of the fire-direction personnel.

5. Inspections

Inspections were held by teams from MOSCOW GSFG, the 4th Gds Mecz Army or the 25th Tk Div to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of training. Every subordinate unit in Source's regiment would be inspected by a team from one of these three levels of command. Source could not state who or which subordinate unit was inspected by what team or furnish any further information on the pattern of these inspections than what is given below.

Semi-annual inspections were conducted by teams from either MOSCOW GSFG or 4th Gds Mecz Army, as was stated in section A, 1 and A, 4. Division Headquarters conducted surprise inspections prior to the semi-annual ones, in order to correct any deficiencies in time.

a. Deficiencies Uncovered in Specific Inspections

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In 1953, Source's regiment barely managed to achieve a "satisfactory" rating. However, no serious deficiencies were found during the 1954 inspection, and the rumors were that the unit was to receive a rating of 4 (good) as a result of the spring inspections.

Whereas the rating for mortar training and firing had not been too good in 1953 it showed a considerable improvement in 1954. The regimental school was the only unit that had received a low rating for individual weapons training in 1954. Other than the normal remarks about the lack of care of the equipment and vehicles and some comment on the fact that training schedules were not being closely observed, the regiment fared quite well in the spring 1954 inspections.

6. Specialized Training

a. Use of Air Support

Concerning systems of ground-air identification, [redacted] the air panels [redacted] There were six boxes of these panels, each of which contained four 4 x 1 m panels. Some were white and some were red. Each panel had loops for pegs so that the panel could be fastened to the ground.

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used. Also, he was never instructed on how they should be used.

[redacted] there was no ground air support training in [redacted] knew nothing about division-level training of this [redacted] there was no liaison system in his regiment to coordinate air ground support. He was of the opinion that any air-ground coordination or communication system would have to be worked out by a headquarters higher than regimental level.

b. Anti-Tank Methods

Source stated that there were no anti-tank weapons [redacted] nor was there any anti-tank training.

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c. Artillery Training

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7. Combined Arms Training

According to Source, the following combined arms exercises took place during the training year: (1), a two-week winter exercise, including moves to and from the winter training area, (2), moves to and from summer camp and (3), certain exercises during the latter part of summer training.

Up to 1953 the 459th Mortar Regt always participated in all combined arms exercises together with the 20th Mtrz Rifle Regt of the same parent division. But starting in late 1953 [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] the 175th Tk Regt also participated with the other two regiments as a team member whenever combined arms tactical exercises were held.

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This was especially true during the 1953-54 and 1954-55 winter tactical training, the purpose of which, Source understood, was to accustom personnel to winter conditions.

a. The [redacted] Regt's Role in Winter Tactical Training

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The 1953 winter exercise began with an alert. [redacted] regiment left its garrison area by organic motor transportation in combat formation. Both the regiment's mortar battalions and such rear elements of the regiment as were necessary to support the former participated. 50X1

The regiment first moved to an assembly area just outside the garrison area and set up camp in tents holding from 10 to 12 men each. The unit remained here for two days and then moved by organic transportation to the vicinity of the division summer camp in the TEMPLIN training area. It remained here for about 10 days, after which it displaced to an unknown location, again in the same general area. After the unit had stayed from three to four days at this latter location, it returned to its permanent station in PRENZLAU.

At each stop a base camp was set up. The tactical units of the regiment left this base almost every day to participate in tactical training.

b. Other Units Participating in Winter Exercises

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Source did not know what tactical principles were employed in divisional exercises, although he knew that the 175th Tk Regt and about half the 20th Mtrzd Rifle Regt also participated in the maneuvers, together with [redacted] The remaining units of the PRENZLAU Garrison also participated in a similar winter maneuver but not at the same time as Source's group. These remaining units were composed of the 83d Hv Tk Regt, the remaining half of the 20th Mtrzd Rifle Regt, and the 10th Howtizer Bn. Source believed that the reason this training was split was because of a shortage of tents. His own particular regiment could provide tentage for about only 70 percent of the regiment, and the remainder of the personnel "made do" with makeshift dugouts, etc. Upon return to the Garrison this tentage was collected and turned over to the other group of the Garrison that as yet had not participated in its winter camp training. 50X1

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During the course of this winter training, regular training on basic military subjects was conducted at the base camps if units did not have a daylong tactical exercise scheduled for that day.

c. Command Post Exercises.

About twice a year certain regimental staff officers, the regimental CO, and portions of the Regimental Fire-Direction Platoon left for an unknown destination in three or four vehicles, to participate in CPX's. These lasted about two days. In these instances part of the regimental signal equipment accompanied them. These exercises were normally prior to the semi-annual tactical exercises conducted at the termination of each training period. Source believed that they took place in the TEMPLIN Training Area.

never heard of a communication CPX in which the regimental staff participated as a unit.

8. Officer Instruction

Prior to any range firing of mortars, both the battalion and regimental CO's assembled their officers for "artillery classes". Each battalion had a miniature "sand box mortar range" as a training aid. Source knew in addition that there was some type of training program for regimental officers but could give no details on it.

9. Defense Against Air Attack

There was no training for defense against air attack, other than some camouflage and blackout practices. No blackout driving was involved which Source knew of. In chemical warfare training, EM were shown how to don the chemical cap against chemical attack from the air. In general, Source believed that all air defense was the responsibility of the Divisional AAA Regt, on which he had no information. There was no air warning net or system in the regiment. He believed that air warning information would be passed to his regiment from a higher (unknown) headquarters.

10. Chemical Training

All personnel of the regiment were exposed to some rudimentary chemical training at the beginning of the training year, during the general military training period. (See Section B, 1). This training was conducted for the most part by unit officers who were sometimes assisted by the chemical instructor of each mortar battalion, a NCO. Personnel were instructed in the use of the Shlem gas mask and the standard issue anti-gas cape, with some practical work following. Personnel were also shown how to use the standard-issue anti-gas gloves and stockings. However, these were not issued and there was no practical work with them. The chemical instructors also explained how to cross contaminated areas and how to decontaminate their bodies or equipment, using individual decontamination packets which had never been issued to personnel of Source's unit.

Once a week, the regimental Chief of Chemical Services was responsible for supervising a "Chemical Day". All personnel were required to wear the gas mask during training or on the job for a specified period. Although the mortar batteries more or less complied with this training, the regimental headquarters units were quite uncooperative in wearing the gas mask.

There was a small amount of other chemical training included in the training schedule throughout the year. However, Source did not participate in it and could give no information.

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11. Night Training

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Each year [] a period of night garrison training that lasted for about a week was organized in the regiment. The regular training schedule was followed but this training started at about 1400 daily during this period and ended at 0800 with recall or taps. Training was mostly of a classroom nature but included close-order drill and physical training as well. The garrison area remained lighted during the entire night. Source did not believe that the mortar batteries left the caserne for any field training during this type of training.

Source believed that the purpose of such training was to condition regimental personnel to perform military functions at night. The personnel slept during the daylight hours. This training, according to Source, had the Germans in the immediate vicinity completely puzzled.

There was no night firing for individual small arms weapons. The mortar batteries, however, did conduct night mortar firing problems in the summer camp training area. Source could give no information on this. He stated that there was no night CBR training or airborne or air transport operations of any kind in the garrison.

12. Training of New Recruits

Recruits normally arrived early in the fall while the division was at summer camp and was just preparing to return to its winter quarters. Instead of joining the unit in the field, the new arrivals were usually sent directly to winter stations. [] they were kept busy either on work details or in some of the division subordinate unit basic military classes, under the direction of the Regimental School officers, pending the arrival of the division from the field. In rare instances, recruits arrived during the summer and were sent directly to summer camp.

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After the division had returned from the field and was preparing for the new training year, the new recruits continued to remain in a group for a short period. Some of these new recruits were then selected for attendance at the regimental school. A large percent of the total were always selected, since the general policy was to send only new arrivals to this school. Those personnel not selected for the school were then assigned to one of the regiments subordinate units, where they followed the same training program as other personnel. There were some minor differences between the political, physical and weapons training given to the first year and second and third year men, but Source could not elaborate on these differences.

Source was certain that no basic training was being conducted in the Soviet Zone. He was quite positive that all the recruits he met had been given basic training in the Soviet Union.

13. Political Training

All officers and EM in the [] Regt were required to participate in four hours of political training each week. This training was conducted each Tuesday and Friday for a two hour period.

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At the beginning of each of these two training days, if personnel missed the training because of guard or other details, they were required to make it up.

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Each of the mortar batteries had a Political Officer (Zampolit) who was responsible for the political training of his battery. He could break up the battery personnel into various groups according to service or rank, or he could present subjects to the battery as a group.

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There was no political officer at mortar battalion level. All the enlisted personnel of the battalion headquarters were given political subjects by their respective officer platoon or section leaders.

At regimental level there was a regimental Zampolit who was responsible for the political training of the regiment in general. This officer personally presented political subjects to officers of the regiment. Separate platoons at regimental level were given political training by their respective officer platoon leaders, since no Zampolits were in these platoons. However, the regimental school did have a Zampolit who personally conducted political lectures and training for all NCO school cadre personnel.

The individual cadre platoon leaders were held responsible for political training of the student privates of their platoons.

Reenlistees (Sverkhstrochniki) of the regiment were permitted to take political training either with EM of their respective units or in officer political training classes.

See section D, 3 for Source's description of political training given at the Division Political School.

C. ALERTS

1. Combat Alerts

There were two types of alerts known to Source in his regiment. One, the "actual or combat" alert was to be followed in the event of an actual attack. There was rumored to be a packet of detailed instructions for such an eventuality at the regimental headquarters which would be opened in such an event. Source could give no further information on this type of alert.

a. 17 Jun 53 Alert

During the 17 Jun uprisings in East Germany, the regiment was informed that "Group 6. is now in a combat situation". All personnel of the Regt donned full field equipment and remained in the regimental area awaiting further orders. The situation continued for about four days, but no ammunition or rations were issued nor any equipment loaded.

2. Training Alerts

a. Limited

For training purposes there was a "combat-training" alert plan which was further broken down into a "limited" alert plan and a "full" alert plan. The "limited" alert plan was often used to test the rapidity with which regimental personnel could don their full field equipment and secure their equipment. It could be called by all commanders from the regimental CO down to battery commanders. The extent to which this alert was carried out depended on the desires of the particular commander calling it. Whenever regimental-size limited alerts were held, personnel of the regiment normally only donned their individual full field equipment and formed on the regimental parade ground for inspection. Sometimes certain sections or personnel were excused from participating. At other times all drivers reported in full equipment to the motor pool and stood by their vehicles. During these "limited" alerts, organic transportation seldom was actually taken out. If it was, only a token number of designated drivers then took part and actually left the caserne area.

b. Full

The "full" combat training alerts were always coordinated with a movement of Source's regiment to the field. (See section B, 7, a.) This

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was true whenever the regiment was to participate in a field exercise or whenever it moved to the field for its summer training. In such cases all the regimental chiefs of services received written instructions as to the scope and size of the impending exercise for planning purposes. The chiefs of the services then decided what particular personnel and equipment were to accompany the tactical group as a support group. Consequently the regimental service sections were partly prepared for the alert, which always preceded that move, when it was announced. Word of the alert was passed down by voice and through rumors. This was because the alerts were announced before dawn almost without exception.

The first action taken by all personnel was to don full field equipment and secure their individual arms. Each mortar section would then individually proceed to the regimental motor park and hook up its mortar to a prime mover. The two or three cases of small arms ammunition kept under lock and key in each battery area would be picked up by one of the battery vehicles. Each mortar section then proceeded individually to the garrison ammunition dump and loaded about 60 cases of 120-mm mortar rounds (two rounds to the case) on each prime mover. From here the mortar section proceeded to a regimental assembly area located from three to six kilometers west of the garrison and awaited the arrival and assembly of the rest of the regiment. The assembly area was often changed but remained in the same general area three to six kilometers west of the garrison.

Here the first reorganization took place. The mortar battalions were joined at this assembly area by those designated regimental service units that would support the group. The remainder of the service units remained in the garrison in order to move the equipment, ammunition and supplies not accompanying the tactical echelon of the regiment.

Source had never observed all the other division sub-units of the garrison leave the garrison area simultaneously. They left in varying increments.

D. SCHOOLS

a. Organization

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Source stated that the regimental school consisted of a radio platoon, a telephone platoon, a rocket launcher platoon and one or two mortar platoons. 3. Personnel from the following divisional units were sent to this school. The 10th Howitzer Bn sent personnel for training as radio and telephone operators. The unidentified Rocket Launcher Bn sent personnel for training as radio and telephone operators and as RL gunners. The unidentified AAA Regt sent personnel for training as radio operators. The 20th Mtrzd Rifle Regt sent personnel for training as 120-mm mortar gunners. [redacted] trained its radio and telephone operators and 120-mm mortar gunners at this school.

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The length of the course was either seven or nine months. The course formally commenced in December, with the beginning of the annual

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training year, although some students were already in the school in late October and November.

Upon graduation during the summer, at the summer camp, only a very few of the better students, about five or six, were promoted to sergeant or junior sergeant. Most students were graduated as PFC's and some even graduated as privates. Some of the graduates remained at the school as cadre personnel while the remainder were returned to their original units. School officers were more or less free after this graduation until the winter training period began.

b. Selection and Exchange of Students

Just as other units sent personnel to its school, the 459th Mortar Regt sent fire-direction personnel to the 10th Howitzer Bn school for training. This battalion school had a seven month course and was located in the PRENZLAU Garrison area. Source had no further information on it. 50X1

Source did not know how the various units selected personnel for attendance at the 459th Mortar Regimental School. 50X1

Initially volunteers were sought from new arrivals. The regimental commander knew how many personnel he needed to train to make up for losses caused by the annual demobilization. If there were not enough volunteers, then the needed number were detailed for it.

c. Cadre Personnel

Only the officers of the school were permanent personnel, with the exception of two or three overhead EM. The cadre of the student platoons were composed of a part of the preceding year graduates. Officers and cadre were responsible for almost all the training presented. Occasionally the Regimental CO, the Regimental Chemical Officer and other Regimental officers presented subjects at the school. 50X1

d. Schedules and Training Organization

The school schedule was the same as the unit schedules except that the periods set aside in the daily schedule from 1830 to 2030 hours for self study were compulsory. Discipline was also considerably more severe.

Each platoon conducted its training separately. At the beginning of the school course the students underwent training in map reading, study of political non-classified training manuals, the use of individual small arms, chemical warfare, field sanitation and first aid. Close-order drill and physical training were also given at this time. This training was about the same as that being given in the remainder of the regiment but more intense.

e. Specialized Training

Following this period of general training, which lasted 1½ months, all the student platoons then began their specialized training. About 50 percent of the instruction was centered on this, but political and physical training and close order drill continued to be presented. Each platoon presented its own specialized training and was exposed to a smattering of the specialized training being given in the other platoons. Towards the end of the term the students were given instruction in making up lesson plans. 4.

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50X1

2. 4th Gds Mecz Army Radio Repair Course in FINOW

50X1

50X1 [redacted] a radio repairman's course at the 4th Gds Mecz Army Radio Repair Shops [redacted]. These shops were located in FINOW at this time. However the repair shops were moved to the 4th Gds Mecz Army Hq caserne in EBERSWALDE (5250N-1350E) in the late spring of 1953. The school also accompanied the repair shops in its move; but it was rumored to be separate from the repair shops.

50X1

The repair shops, [redacted] the course, consisted of five officers, three of whom were radio technicians, one of which was a telephone technician and one officer who was the CO; two reenlistee radio technicians; and about 15 conscripts, five of whom worked in the repair shops and the remainder of whom were overhead personnel.

50X1

There were about seven signal officer instructors and two reenlistee instructors. The officer instructors were from the repair shops themselves, the staff of the 4th Gds Mecz Army Hq and (one unidentified officer) from the 4th Gds Mecz Army Signal Warehouse. The two signal branch reenlistees were radio technicians from the radio repair shops. The staff officers were unidentified line officers, while the non-teaching repair shop personnel were signal branch personnel.

50X1 The course [redacted] was broken down into military subjects such as close-order drill and physical training, political subjects, and specialized radio training. Instruction in military subjects was kept to the bare minimum, with most of the training being devoted to actual instruction on radio and allied subjects.

At the beginning of the course students learned principles of electricity, wiring diagrams, principles of radio construction, etc. This instruction was all of a theoretical classroom nature and was presented mostly with the aid of signal training charts, wiring diagrams and official signal training literature.

Following the short theoretical phase of the course, the students then did practical work. For this purpose students learned the construction and operation of the RB, RBM, RBM-1, A7A, A7B, 9RS, 10RK, 10RK-26, and 10RT types of radios. For the purpose of this training the radios themselves were used as training aids, in addition to mockups and cross-section drawings of the radios.

Following this second training phase the students then began a further intensified study of the construction of these radios which were in the T/O&E's of their own parent units, since they would actually have to work with these models upon return to their respective units. In this phase of training, the students were shown how to keep radios in operation.

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50X1

how to repair certain breakdowns, and how to replace certain parts of the radio.

The instructors would put a radio out of action and it was up to the students, as part of the training, to locate the trouble, remedy it and put the set back into operating order. The students also watched actual repair of radios in the repair shops, and later participated in some practical work in repairing radios there. This last, practical training phase of the course accounted for most of the course time.

3. Political Training School of the 25th Tk Div

a. Organization

In addition to the political training given in the regiments, there was a Division Political School which any person could attend regardless of his rank. It conducted political training of an unknown nature and utilized the PRENZLAU Garrison Officers Club for its classes. Personnel attending this school were excused from the political training in their respective regiments.

b. Subjects of Instruction

political themes and subjects

generalize that all political subjects revolved around "hate America and her allies" themes. At the same time they glorified the Soviet Union, its leaders, etc.

Interrogator's Comment 1: See [] for the pinpoint location of this summer camp and the installations it contained.

50X1

Comment 2: Source was unable to give the exact pinpoint location of this firing range. See report [] for Source's information on signal aspects of this mortar firing.

50X1

Comment 3: See [] for further information on the cadre personnel, organization and equipment of this regimental school.

50X1

Comment 4: See [] description of somewhat similar radio training procedures at a Soviet Army school in Austria.

50X1

Comment 5: See [] for a sketch of this shop area in FINOW.

50X1

Comment 6: The word "Group" in this context means "CGFG".

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